

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-2 and 4-7 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

LISTING OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claims 1-2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) ~~The process of claim 1, A process of manufacturing a sleeve for connector of optical fibers comprising:~~

5 a) shaping a member made of stainless steel into a hollow cylinder;
 b) forming at least one groove on an outer circumferential surface of the cylinder by performing the steps of:
 i) inserting a cylindrical rod into a bore of the cylinder;
 ii) melting a portion to be heated and forming the groove utilizing a laser;
 iii) cooling for contracting the bore of the cylinder onto the rod; and
 10 iv) removing the rod when cooled from the cylinder producing a finished sleeve having a tolerance within 1 µm,

wherein the portion to be heated has a depth about one-half of thickness of the cylinder.

Claims 4-7. (Canceled)